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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,152	03/24/2005	Yasuki Kimura	Q87054	1832

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EXAMINER

OLSEN, ALLAN W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/529,152	Applicant(s) KIMURA, YASUKI	
	Examiner Allan Olsen	Art Unit 1763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/22/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figure 5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Also, the top row of figure 7 should be identified as prior art or comparative data. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the last line of page 27, "upper" should read --lower--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 21, 22, 36, 39, 40 and 42 are objected to because of the following informalities:

claims 21 and 39: "the pattern formed on the thin film" should read, -- the pattern formed in the thin film --;

claims 22 and 40, last line of each, "firm" should be -- film --;

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In claim 36, line 2, "...wherein an organic substance ..." should read --wherein the organic substance...--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claim recites a feature size of 4 μ m whereas the specification discloses a size of 0.4 μ m.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim recites "a pattern of which a design size is 4 μ m or more and 2.0 μ m or less". Is this intended to mean that the design size is between 0.4 μ m and 2.0 μ m (assuming that the 4 μ m is supposed to read .4 μ m)?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 21-28, 30-32, 36-40, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwon et al. in Loading Effect Parameters at Dry Etcher System and Their Analysis at Mask-to-Mask Loading and Within-Mask Loading, SPIE Vol. 4562 pp79-87 (hereinafter, Kwon).

Kwon teaches etching a Cr photomask using an ICP and an etchant comprising Cl₂, O₂ and He. Kwon teaches etching Cr, in the presence of a polymeric organic photoresist. Kwon teaches etching over a wide range of photoresist/chromium loadings that encompass photoresist coverages that are above and below 70% of the Cr film (see figure 1). Kwon teaches a Cr:photoresist etch selectivity of less than 1.5 (see figure 3a). Kwon teaches etching using parameters that match those use by applicant. As such, Kwon is considered to etch at a power level below that which causes a jump in plasma density.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29 and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon, as applied above to claims 28 and 32, in view of US Patent 4,613,401 issued to Hoshino.

Kwon does not teach adding an organic gas to the etchant.

Hoshino teaches adding ethanol vapor to a plasma etching gas when etching Cr.

See, for example, abstract and column 4, lines 28+.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to add ethanol to the etchant Kwon because Hoshino teaches that the removal of chromium-oxy-chloride reaction products is greatly enhanced by the addition of ethanol.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon, as applied above to claim 40, in view of US Patent 6,989,603 issued to Zhang.

Kwan does not teach a mask comprising an optical proximity correction pattern.

Zhang teaches masks comprising an optical proximity correction pattern.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to fabricate a mask comprising an optical proximity correction pattern because Zhang teaches that such masks well known as being highly precise (column 2, line 33).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

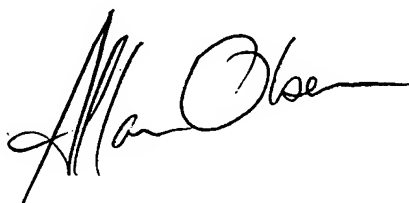
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Olsen whose telephone number is 571-272-1441. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W and F: 1-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Olsen', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Allan Olsen
Primary Examiner
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